



State of Connecticut
Latino and Puerto Rican
Affairs Commission

18-20 Trinity Street
Hartford, CT 06106
Tel. (860) 240-8330
Fax (860) 240-0315

E-Mail: lprac@cga.ct.gov
Web Site: www.cga.ct.gov/lprac

Chairman
Isaias Tomas Díaz, Esq.
Vice-Chair
Richard A. Cruz
Secretary
Yolanda Castillo
Treasurer
Dr. Eugene M. Salorio

Commissioners:
Ramón L. Arroyo
Hon. Migdalla Castro
Roberto C. Fernandez
Dr. Sonia B. Manjon
Lourdes E. Montalvo
Ed Rodríguez
Norma Rodríguez-Reyes
Danny Torres

Acting Executive Director
Werner Oyanadel

Special Projects
Director/Grants Writer
Lucia Golcochea-
Hernández

Senior Legislative Secretary
Clarisa Cardone

Testimony of LPRAC in Support of Judge Carmen Espinosa
to Serve on the Connecticut Supreme Court
February 1, 2013 10:30 a.m. ~ Room 2C of the Legislative Office
Building, Hartford, Connecticut

Good morning State Senator Coleman, State Representative Fox, Co-Chairs of the Judiciary Committee and all the honorable members that are part of this important legislative committee of the Connecticut General Assembly. My name is Isaias T. Diaz., Esq., Chairman of the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission (LPRAC). I am here today to speak on behalf of LPRAC in support of Judge Carmen Espinosa to serve on the Connecticut State Supreme Court.

Judge Carmen Elisa Espinosa, for the record, was appointed to the Appellate Court by Governor Malloy back on March 16, 2011. She is the first Hispanic appointed to serve as a judge of the Appellate Court. Judge Espinosa was appointed to the Superior Court on January 10, 1992, and was the first Hispanic and Hispanic woman Superior Court judge in the State of Connecticut.

Judge Espinosa previously presided over trials in the Judicial Districts of New Britain, Hartford and Waterbury. In addition to her duties on the bench, Judge Espinosa has been involved in judicial education and for nine years served on the Judicial Branch's Education Committee, which oversees all facets of continuing education for members of the judiciary.



Over the years, she has been on the faculty of the Education Committee, teaching criminal law courses. Judge Espinosa previously served on the Client Security Fund Committee and was also a member of the Sentence Review Division of the Superior Court.

For more than a decade prior to her appointment to the bench, Judge Espinosa was an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut in Hartford, serving nine years in the Criminal Division and two years in the Civil Division. While an Assistant United States Attorney, Judge Espinosa received the United States Attorney General's Distinguished Service Award and the United States Department of Justice Special Achievement Award. Before becoming a federal prosecutor, she was a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

Judge Espinosa received her Juris Doctor from The George Washington University Law School. She holds a Master of Arts Degree in Hispanic Studies from Brown University and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Secondary Education with a major in Spanish and French from Central Connecticut State University.

As you can see from the distinguished aforementioned record, Judge Espinosa in our opinion highly merits your support today. On behalf of all the members of our legislative agency and staff we add our names to the list of people in support of her confirmation so that she may



continue to serve the people of Connecticut, however in a greater role in the judicial branch as the first Hispanic to sit on the Connecticut Supreme Court. A vote in favor of Judge Espinosa will not only help maintain the strength and quality of the Justices serving on our State's Supreme Court, but as equally important would send a powerful message to the Latino community that says that the Connecticut General Assembly is truly committed to diversity in our judiciary. I would also like to add that while this confirmation would be significant in our community, it actually does not represent an increase in the number of Latino judges, which has remained at a low 2.7% from back more than a decade ago even though our population grew by an astounding 50% during the same period of time.

In summary, LPRAC respectfully urges the Judiciary Committee to vote in support of Judge Carmen Espinosa and I am ready today to respond to any questions you may have in regards to this important matter to us. Thank you...